

**REMARKS**

Claims 95-106 are pending in the present application. Claims 95, 99 and 102 are the independent claims.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-24, 35, 36, 41-45, 47-66 and 68-94 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 95-106 are allowed and that claims 17, 18, 20, 22, 55-57, 76, 77, 79, 81 and 83 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

**REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:**

Claims 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Verbakel et al (U.S. Patent 6,370,090 hereafter Verbakel).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claims 35 and 36 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 35 and 36 is moot.

Claims 41 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Verbakel.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claims 41 and 42 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 41 and 42 is moot.

Claims 45, 48, 51-54, 63, 64, 66, 68 and 72-75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Verbakel.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claims 45, 48, 51-54, 63, 64, 66, 68 and 72-75 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 45, 48, 51-54, 63, 64, 66, 68 and 72-75 is moot.

Claim 65 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Verbakel.

Claim 65 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 65 is moot.

Claims 84-87 and 90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Verbakel.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claims 84-87 and 90 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 84-87 and 90 is moot.

Claim 92 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Verbakel.

Claim 92 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 92 is moot.

**REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:**

Claims 1, 3-9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Verbakel in view of Kozuka et al. (U.S. Patent 6,466, 735 hereafter Kozuka).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 3-9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19 and 21 is moot.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Verbakel.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reason.

Claim 14 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 14 is moot.

Claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Verbakel in view of Mine (U.S. Patent 6,243, 338 hereafter Mine).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reason.

Claims 23 and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 23 and 24 is moot.

Claims 43 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Verbakel in view of Mine.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reason.

Claims 43 and 44 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 43 and 44 is moot.

Claims 47, 49, 61, 62, 69, 70, 82, 88 and 91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Verbakel in view of Mine.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reason.

Claims 47, 49, 61, 62, 69, 70, 82, 88 and 91 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 47, 49, 61, 62, 69, 70, 82, 88 and 91 is moot.

Claims 50 and 71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Verbakel (U.S. Patent 6,370,090) in view of Kozuka et al. (U.S. Patent 6,466,735).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reason.

Claims 50 and 71 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 50 and 71 is moot.

Claims 58, 59, 60, 78, 80 and 89 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Verbakel (U.S. Patent 6,370,090) in view of Kozuka et al. (U.S. Patent 6,466,735).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reason.

Claims 58-60, 78, 80 and 89 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 58-60, 78, 80 and 89 is moot.

Claim 93 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ando et al. (U.S. Patent 5,537,387 hereafter Ando) in view of Kozuka.

Claim 93 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 93 is moot.

Claim 94 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ando in view of Kozuka and Mine.

Claim 94 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 94 is moot.

**CONCLUSION:**

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

STEIN, MCEWEN & BUI, LLP

Date: 5/8/06

By: Douglas X. Rodriguez  
Douglas X. Rodriguez  
Registration No. 47,269

1400 Eye St., NW  
Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 216-9505  
Facsimile: (202) 216-9510